REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed **November 26, 2002**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-24. Claims 1, 4-5, 7-9, 12-13, 15-17, 20-21 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier et al (USPN 5,625,815, hereinafter "Maier") in view of Park et al (USPN 6,064,951, hereinafter "Park"). Claims 2-3, 6, 10-11, 14, 18-19, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maier in view of Cochrane et al. (USPN 5,987,455, hereinafter "Cochrane")

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maier in view of Park.

Applicant respectfully points out that Maier teaches a transaction manager that creates **audit entries for each transaction** (see Maier, col. 4, lines 7-12). In contrast, the present invention discloses creating an audit record only **for rows where auditing is enabled** (see page 7, line 18 to page 8, line 2 of the instant application). Creating an audit record only if auditing is enabled is advantageous because it prevents the system from creating an audit record in cases where sensitive data is not accessed, thereby saving space in the audit trail. Neither Maier nor Park, either separately or in concert, suggest or imply an advantage for creating an audit record only for rows where auditing is enabled.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that the present invention creates an audit record only for rows where auditing is enabled. These amendments find support on page 7, line 18 to page 8, line 2 of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 2-8, which depend upon claim 1, claims 10-16, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 18-24, which depend upon claim 17 are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

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The claims:

1   1. (Twice Amended) A method for selectively auditing accesses to a

2   relational database, comprising:

3   receiving a query for the relational database;

4   automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that

5   processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in

6   relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing

7   condition, wherein satisfying the auditing condition allows selective auditing of the

8   query;

9   processing the modified query to produce a query result, wherein processing

10   the modified query includes,

11   creating the audit record for rows in relational tables that are

12   accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing condition, and

13   recording the audit record in an audit record store; and

14   returning the query result.

1   9. (Twice Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing

2   instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a

3   method for selectively auditing accesses to a relational database, the method

4   comprising:

5   receiving a query for the relational database;

6   automatically modifying the query prior to processing the query, so that

7   processing the query causes an audit record to be created and recorded for rows in

8   relational tables that are accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing

9   condition, wherein satisfying the auditing condition allows selective auditing of the

10   query;

11   processing the modified query to produce a query result, wherein processing

12   the modified query includes,

13   creating the audit record for rows in relational tables that are

14   accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing condition, and

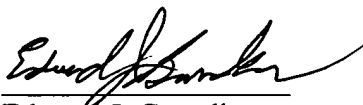15   recording the audit record in an audit record store; and

16   returning the query result.

1   17. (Twice Amended) An apparatus that selectively audits accesses to a

2 relational database, comprising:

3   a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a query for the

4 relational database;

5   a query modification mechanism that is configured to automatically modify

6 the query, prior to processing the query, so that processing the query causes an

7 audit record to be created and recorded for rows in relational tables that are

8 accessed by the query and that satisfy an auditing condition, wherein satisfying the

9 auditing condition allows selective auditing of the query;

10   a query processor that is configured to process the modified query to

11 produce a query result, wherein processing the modified query includes,

12   creating the audit record for rows in relational tables that are

13   accessed by the query and that satisfy the auditing condition, and

14   recording the audit record in an audit record store; and

15   a returning mechanism that is configured to return the query result.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By   _Edward J. Grundler_

Edward J. Grundler
Registration No. 47,615

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Edward J. Grundler
PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
508 Second Street, Suite 201
Davis, CA 95616-4692
Tel: (530) 759-1663
FAX: (530) 759-1665